

REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action mailed January 24, 2003. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants have amended claims 1, 9, 17, 25. Reconsideration in light of the amendments and remarks made herein is respectfully requested.

I. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,272,109 issued to Pei et al. ("Pei"). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants reiterate the arguments set forth in the previously filed Response to the Office Action. Applicants contend that Pei does not disclose, either expressly or inherently, dividing a hardware schedule table into N logical schedule tables. The Examiner apparently interpreted the static and dynamic tables as equivalent to the hardware and logical schedule tables. However, the Examiner has not shown which one corresponds to which and whether one table is divided from another table. However, to clarify the claim language, Applicants has amended claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 to include the limitation that the N logical schedule tables operate independently from one another. This feature, together with other features as argued in the previous response including the logical schedule tables being divided from the hardware schedule tables, the table delimiter, and assigning an identifier in a logical schedule table are not present in Pei.

For the similar reasons, dependent claims 2-8, 10-16, 18-24, and 26-31, which depend on independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25, respectively, are distinguishable from the cited prior art reference.

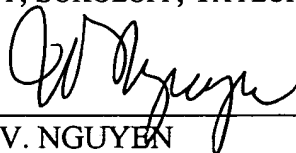
Therefore, Applicants believe that independent claims 1, 9, 17, and 25 and their respective dependent claims are distinguishable over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks made above, it is respectfully submitted that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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